

## Historical Moments

### Olivares' Fall from Power

In this article we explain the main reasons of the fall from Power of one of the most important people in the history of Spain.

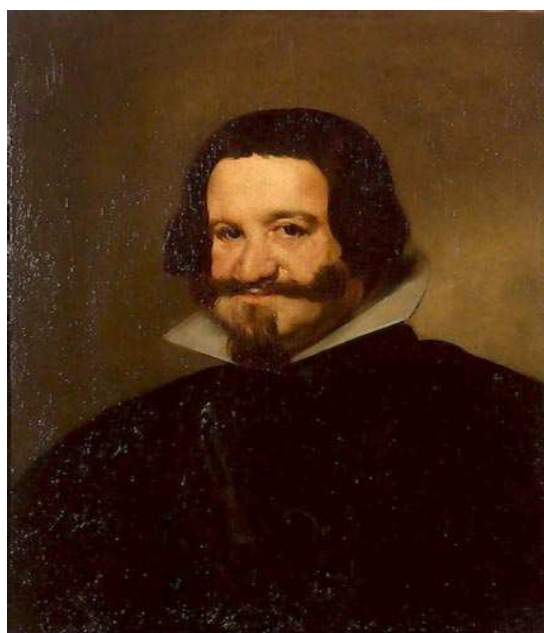
Olivares' fall from power occurred for several reasons, the main one was the crisis of 1640. In that year a lot of territorial issues and economic problems took place in Spain.

First, his project of "Union of Arms" that meant that all kingdoms in the Spanish Monarchy would contribute men and money to his defense, in proportion to its population and wealth. The reject of this idea caused the revolts in Catalonia and Portugal, and finally Portugal got its independence from the other Iberian Kingdoms. Also in Catalonia Luis XIII was named Count of Barcelona.

Secondly, other Spanish territories during this crisis, tried to get more independence from Castile, such as Andalusia (the conspiracy of the Duke of Medina Sidonia) and Aragon (Duke of Híjar).

Olivares suffered from mental illness in his later years, and was no longer as effective an administrator as he had once been.

He had also problems with



*Portrait of the Count-Duke of Olivares by Diego de Velázquez*

the Castilian nobility.

Olivares was also largely blamed by contemporaries for huge cost of the new royal palace of Buen Retiro.

In 1641 Spain had high levels of inflation, causing economic chaos.

In 1643, the king decided to remove Olivares in order to calm the social protest, and later he was even exiled to Toro, far away from the Court.

He finally died in 1645 in his exile in Toro.

- Several reasons caused Count-Duke's fall
- The Union of Arms was the origin of territorial issues
- Portugal got its Independence during his government
- Catalonia took part for France during this crisis
- He was exiled after the end of his government